



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply
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8300; (CA-350)

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: Docket No. AB-12 (Sub-No. 184X) Abandonment Exemption - Wendel-Alturas Line,
California (Related to FD 32706); Request for Extension of Negotiations For Trail
Use

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eagle Lake Field Office (FO), with the concurrence of the BLM Alturas FO, remains actively interested in pursuing negotiations for railbanking of the Wendel-Alturas Line referenced above, under the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) rules for Interim Trail Use and Rail Banking, 49 CFR 1152.29. This includes the entire Wendel to Alturas Line.

On 1-24-02 Union Pacific Railroad notified this BLM office of their intent to begin salvaging track on the Wendel - Alturas line in the near future. We hereby request that the Surface Transportation Board grant a 6 month extension and preferably a one year extension for negotiations with the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR). We anticipate that acquisition of the line from UPRR may take more than six months due to time needed to establish acquisition value and secure funds. Extension of the negotiation period for one year would provide for a more viable period to bring this action to a mutually satisfactory conclusion. To date only preliminary information has been provided by UPRR and negotiations have not occurred due to UPRR uncertainties about the line. In effect, the 1-24-02 UPRR letter has just initiated their intent on beginning negotiations and much work now needs to be done before agreements can be reached.

We appreciate your consideration of this request for an extension. A copy of our letter to UPRR is enclosed. If you need any additional information, please contact Stan Bales, BLM Recreation Planner at (530) 257-0456.

Sincerely,

Linda D. Hansen
for Linda D. Hansen
Field Manager
Eagle Lake Field Office

cc: bob opal, uprr - omaha
kate bickert, rtc - sf
wally herger
encl: uprr ltr

WA-RR/STBLtr_RlBnkExten_2-4-02